

ANNUAL REPORT TO USAID/BANGLADESH, DHAKA

<u>Project Title:</u>	Counter-Trafficking Interventions in Prevention, Protection and Prosecution for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Bangladesh
Executing Agency	: International Organization for Migration (IOM) Dhaka
Project Partner Agencies	: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) as lead Ministry • Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) • Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWCA) • Ministry of Information (MoI) • Local Govt. Division, Ministry of Local Government and Cooperatives • District civil administration • District police administration • NGOs: Seven (7) in 18 Districts
Geographical Coverage	: Bangladesh (18 districts)
Project Management Site	: IOM Dhaka
Target Group(s)	: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victims/survivors/rescued from harmful situation • School children, parents and teachers • Local elites • Bar association members, public prosecutors and lawyers • Community people • Officers-in-charge of police stations
Project Period	: 22 September 2005 to 21 September 2008
Reporting Period	: 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007
Total Budget	: US\$ 1,778,315
Expenditure During Reporting Period	: US\$ 514,879.88

SUMMARY:

The following annual report covers the project period from 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007. During the reporting period, the following results have been achieved:

- Conducted a refreshers' training for the NGO programme and finance staff;
- Organized a launching ceremony of the lawyers training programme;
- Signed MOU with Dhaka Bar Council;
- Organized 24 advocacy meetings with district level government officials;
- Organized two Project Implementation Committee (PIC) meetings and two Monitoring Committee meetings;
- Organized two stakeholders meeting for district administration, civil society, NGOs and media people;
- Organized one partners' coordination meeting;

- Organized two study visit to Nepal and India;
- Conducted mid-term evaluation of the project;
- Signed a Letter of Understanding (LOU) between IOM – CTI partner NGOs and NSDP partner NGOs;
- Organized 129 drama campaigns;
- IOM partner NGOs carried out:
 - 434 meetings with Locally Elected Bodies (LEBs);
 - 218 meetings with Bazar Committee members;
 - 218 meetings with Local Leaders;
 - 216 meetings with Community Based Organizations (CBOs);
 - 216 meetings with school students;
 - 217 meetings with the parents of the students; and
 - 217 meetings with the teachers of the school.
 - 32 awareness raising programme for sustainable social integration of survivors.

Through the above mentioned field level activities **38,423 persons from various communities** (LEBs, bazar committee members, religious leaders, students, parents, teachers, community people, etc.) in **18 districts** were sensitized and made aware of the issue of human trafficking. During this period a media campaign took place as well.

The next steps of the project will be:

- To conduct a series of training courses for the Bar Association members, Public Prosecutors and Lawyers;
- To provide support to the victims of trafficking;
- To organize a roundtable discussion with Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- To organize a training for the Foreign Service Academy Officials (FSA);
- To arrange an orientation training for the land port immigration officials and inspector level officials;
- To build awareness among the potential migrants about labour trafficking;
- To conduct series of advocacy meetings;
- To develop a TV documentary and radio drama; and
- To work with Grameenphone¹ to provide support to the victims of trafficking.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Project objective:

The overall objective of this project is to strengthen counter-trafficking interventions in prevention, protection, rescue, voluntary repatriation, reintegration and prosecution for Bangladeshi victims of trafficking in persons.

Project Purpose:

Prevention:

- Raise awareness of trafficking in persons in Bangladesh among the general public as well as specific targeted groups in 18 districts.
- Assist in creating income generation opportunities for 975 trafficking victims/survivors/rescued persons from harmful situation.

¹ One of the largest telecommunication company working in the social development field

Protection:

- Provide direct return and reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking.
- Strengthen the capacity of locally elected bodies, law enforcement agencies and NGOs to better identify and assist victims of trafficking.

Prosecution:

- Strengthen the capacity of police officers including Thana Police in Charge (OIC), prosecutors and lawyers to manage trafficking cases.

To achieve the above objective, the project aims to organize an information campaign to educate more than three million people on the harm caused by trafficking in persons.

To achieve the above objective, the project aims to organize an orientation of Officers-in-Charge of all police stations of Bangladesh to facilitate protection, victim care and support; create an information campaign to educate more than 3 million people on the harm caused by trafficking in persons; and assist 975 victims/survivors/rescued persons. The project will also provide services for victims to get out of harmful situations, facilitate their efforts to generate income and start-up businesses of their own. These persons will also be provided with physical and mental health care, legal counselling, aid and shelter when necessary, through referral services. It will also help the survivors to reintegrate into their families and societies as independent economic entities through comprehensive skills and livelihood development. The project will continue school, drama and community campaigns simultaneously to inform people about the issue in 18 districts of Bangladesh. Similarly, at the thana/union level, meetings with Locally Elected Bodies (LEBs) will be organized to make them aware about the importance of the issue and their role in preventing this crime. The local level NGOs will be involved in organizing bazaar meeting and meeting with CBOs to support the awareness initiatives of the project.

To ensure efficient implementation and ownership of the program and its activities at the district level, several activities will be carried out under this project. These activities include advocacy meetings with district level administration and police officials, as well as with District Commissioners and Superintendent of Police. The aim of these meetings is to discuss the project activities, ensure their involvement and solicit their support in implementing the project activities. The MoHA and IOM will jointly organize such advocacy meetings in the district level. In each selected district, two meetings per year (a total of 108 meetings) will be organized during the project period.

IOM will also organize some special meetings during the project period. These are inception meeting, stakeholders meeting and monitoring meeting. Inception meeting was jointly arranged by the MoHA and IOM at the beginning of the project in Dhaka. Project partners, District Commissioner (DC), Superintendent of Police (SP) from 18 districts participated in the meeting. The inception meeting focused on the project objectives, activities and their respective roles. Stakeholders meeting will be called by IOM in 6 selected districts in every six months to appraise the members of the civil society, representatives from district administration and police about the progress of the project. Monitoring meeting will be called by MoHA once in every six months and attended by the members of the Project Implementation Committee (PIC).

Finally, the project will provide a set of recommendations for future interventions in the field of counter-trafficking by carrying out an evaluation and sharing workshop.

1. RESULTS:

The following results have been achieved during the reporting period:

a) Training:

- A refreshers' training was arranged for the NGO programme and finance staff at the Development, Training and Study Centre (DTSC) of Assistance for Social Organization and Development (ASOD)² at Rangpur. A total of thirty staff members from seven partner NGOs attended the training session.
- The training manual for lawyers was finalized and approved by the Ministry of Law. A launching ceremony was organized before starting the training programme. About 110 people from different Ministries, government officials, donors, INGOs, NGOs, civil society, the media attended the launching ceremony, which was widely covered by the electronic and print media.
- Legal Education and Training Institute (LETI) organized training courses for the lawyers' and public prosecutor as per the agreement signed between IOM and Dhaka Bar Council. During this period a total of eighteen (18) courses have been organized by LETI. So far 450 lawyers and public prosecutors have attended these training courses.
- BNWLA, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association, partner of IOM – CTI project, organized a meeting to develop the training manual on shelter home operational management. After finalizing the training manual they will provide training to the staff members from GOs & NGOs on the issue.

b) Meetings:

- Conducted 24 Advocacy Meetings in 24 districts, where 534 district level Government Officials, media people, representatives from civil society and NGOs were present. The participants appreciated the initiative very much and expressed their commitment to extend cooperation in implementing the project activities to prevent human trafficking and to provide best support to the victims of trafficking. The district level government has also taken some initiatives which they shared during the meeting. These meetings were facilitated by the IOM project staff.
- The members of the Project Implementation Committee and Monitoring Committee have met three times during this year. The members of the committee discussed various issues of the project. The work plan for the final year of the project with some new options has been discussed and endorsed by the committee. They also reviewed the progress made so far by the project.
- Two stakeholder meetings were organized on 12 March 2007 at Rajshahi and on 8 July 2007 at Chittagong. A total of 50 persons attended in two stakeholders meetings where government officials, representative from NGOs, civil society members, representative from print and electronic media were present. In the meeting, progress of the project and future activities were shared with the participants. The participants appreciated the activities of the project very much and requested to cover more areas of the country.
- Victim care and support is one of the very important components of this project. To improve the quality of the shelter home services and for sharing experiences, IOM arranged study tour to Nepal and India. These two visits were very fruitful and the participants appreciated this initiative very much.

² Assistance for Social Organization and Development (ASOD), Rangpur, a partner NGO of IOM under this project

- A coordination meeting among the partners held from 10 to 11 June, 2007 at Bogra. The core objective of the meeting was to further enhance the co-ordination among the partners and IOM. Eighteen partners from nine partners NGOs and Legal Education and Training Institute (LETI), Bar Council attended the meeting. It helped the partners to find out better collaboration and cooperation among themselves.

c) Victim Support and Care

- A total of 164 (53 male & 111 female) victims of trafficking have received different services (medical, legal, psychosocial counseling, skill training) from four shelter homes run by Association for Community Development (ACD) at Rajshahi, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) at Dhaka, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) at Jessore and Thengamara Mohila Sabuj Sangha (TMSS) at Bogra.

d) Media Campaign:

- Expressions Limited was commissioned earlier for telecasting and broadcasting of TV spots, documentary films and radio spots. They arranged 80 shows in different TV channels including 21 bonus shows. They also arranged the broadcasting of 70 shows of radio spots during this period. It is assumed that a huge number of the population would be covered under this media campaign.

e) Drama Campaign:

- A total of 638,450* (433,050 male & 205,400 female) persons from various communities attended the drama campaign where counter-trafficking messages were disseminated by Rupantar through pot song, drama and folk song.
* This is an estimate number but authenticated by a local elite and photographs.

f) Community Campaign:

- A total of 5,761 (4,561 male & 1,200 female) Union Parishad Chairmen & Members were sensitized about the issue of human trafficking and how they can help to prevent human trafficking.
- A total of 3,172 (3,135 male & 37 female) Bazar Committee members were made aware of the issue of human trafficking.
- A total of 3,813 (3,641 male & 172 female) local leaders were made aware about the issue of human trafficking and their role in preventing human trafficking.
- A total of 3,216 (2,702 male & 514 female) members of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) were informed about the issue and their role to prevent human trafficking.
- A total of 13,382 students (5,034 male & 8,348 female) students were made aware about the issue of human trafficking.

- A total of 4,331 (2,002 male & 2,329 female) parents were made aware about the issue of trafficking in persons and their vital role to protect their children from being trafficked.
- A total of 3,503 (2,711 male & 801 female) teachers, which also includes members of the management committee, were made aware about the different aspects of human trafficking and their role in preventing human trafficking.
- A total of 1,245 community people attended awareness raising programme organized by BNWLA for sustainable reintegration of survivors.

g) Evaluation:

- One mid-term evaluation of the project was conducted by an Independent Consultant. The main objective of the evaluation was to assess the progress of the project. The evaluation has been carried out in order to assess the progress made so far towards achieving the project objectives and milestones, and to identify its strengths, constraints, and lessons learned, as well as to assess the efficacy of the strategy, and recommend adjustments to current activities if required. The evaluation was undertaken in July 2007 through the means of literature review, interview of key government officials, discussion with the IOM project team and implementing partners in the field, focus group discussions with project stakeholders/target population, and input from USAID Bangladesh. The consultant assessed the achievements made so far and found some weaknesses/constraints and also recommended measures/suggestions.

2. ACTIVITIES:

As per approved project proposal and work plan, the following activities were completed during the reporting period:

a) Training:

- A refreshers' training for the NGO programme and finance staff was organized. The meeting took place from 19 to 21 December 2006 at the Development, Training and Study Centre (DTSC), ASOD, Rangpur. The main objective of the training was to share the present situation of human trafficking and conceptual clarity on the various aspects of human trafficking. Different programmatic and financial issues were also discussed with the NGO staff. The duration of the training was two and a half days. The training was for refreshing their conceptual understanding of human trafficking and migration issues. Achievements of the first and second year implementation activities were also discussed in the training session. A session on "Rights based Approach to Protect and Support Victims of Trafficking in Persons" was deemed very interesting by the training participants and the approach can be considered in the CTI project. A presentation on NGO Service Delivery Programme (NSDP)³ project activities was made for the participants to find out the synergy between these two projects. Apart from this, monitoring and financial issues were discussed for better management.
- The Ministry of Law endorsed the final training manual for the "Training Programme for the Lawyers on Combating Trafficking in Persons" through

³ NGO Service Delivery Programme (NSDP), USAID/Bangladesh funded another health project

MoHA. MoHA was given the responsibility to accord official approval so that the training can start as soon as possible. Accordingly, Ministry of Law provided their endorsement on the training manual. For printing the training manual, a printing company was commissioned earlier and they were provided the work order to print the manual. A launching ceremony of the manual for the “Training Programme for the Lawyers on Combating Trafficking in Persons” was organized on 31 March 2007. The Honourable Advisor, Barrister Mainul Hosein, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Govt. of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh was present as Chief Guest and launched the training manual. Among other high level Government officials, Members from Supreme Court Bar Association and Mr. Richard Danziger, Head of Counter-Trafficking, IOM Geneva, was present in the launching ceremony. Mr. Richard Danziger also presented a keynote paper in the launching ceremony.

- IOM signed a MOU with Dhaka Bar Council on 25 May 2006 in order to coordinate the training programme of the lawyers’ and public prosecutor through their Legal Education & Training Institute (LETI). After the launching ceremony of the training manual, the first batch of the training started on 29 April 2007. Total 25 participants attended in each batch and the duration of each training course is two-days.
- Arranged one meeting for developing training manual on shelter home operational management.

b) Meetings:

- Twenty four Advocacy Meetings have been organized in 24 districts (*Jhenaidah, Satkhira, Jessore, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Rangpur, Joypurhat, Kushtia, Bogra, Sirajganj, Pabna, Manikganj, Madaripur, Faridpur, Mymensingh, Bagerhat, Khulna, Meherpur, Narail, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Chittagong, Cox’s Bazar and Chuadanga*). IOM requested the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) to organize these Advocacy Meetings at district level. Subsequently the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) issued a request letter to the district administration to organize these meetings at the Deputy Commissioners’ office. IOM project staff facilitated these meetings.
- Two meetings of the Project Implementation Committee held on 13 December 2006 and 20 September 2007 at the Ministry of Home Affairs. The meeting was presided over by the Deputy Secretary (Immigration) and also the MoHA focal point of the project. Since the members of PIC and Monitoring committee are the same, the members decided to combine the PIC and Monitoring meetings to one meeting which was held on September 20, 2007 at the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Two monitoring meeting were called by MoHA on 15 May and 20 September 2007 at the Ministry of Home Affairs. The meeting was also presided over by the Deputy Secretary (Immigration), MoHA.
- Two stakeholders meeting were organized: one at the Tennis Complex Conference Room, Rajshahi on 12 March 2007 and another one at Chittagong DC office on 8 July 2007. In the PIC meeting it was decided that as the advocacy meeting would be organized in the new districts, so at divisional level advocacy meeting and stakeholder meetings would be organized jointly for greater coverage. Accordingly, the stakeholder meeting and advocacy meeting was combined to one meeting on 8 July.
- IOM arranged study tour to Nepal from 13 to 16 August and to India from 10 to 13 September 2007. A team consisting of 9 members from Ministry of Home Affairs, partner NGOs and IOM Dhaka, under the leadership of Joint

Secretary (Political), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Government of Bangladesh visited Nepal. The team physically visited Nepalese well rapport organization, Maiti Nepal, National Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Home Affairs and SAARC Secretariat at Katmandu, Nepal. Another team went to India for experience sharing; focusing on victim care and support system of India. The 10 member team was led by the Deputy Secretary (Immigration), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Bangladesh. They visited PRAYAS: Institute of Juvenile Justice, UNODC, Institute of Social Science, STOP Shelter Home and Delhi University Café run by the Victims of Trafficking and "Ashray" - The Large Extended Family Home.

- A coordination meeting among the partners under the CTI project was held from 10 to 11 June, 2007 at Bogra. Representative from USAID/Bangladesh, IOM Dhaka and representative from nine partner NGOs and Legal Education and Training Institute participated in the meeting. The duration of the meeting was for 1½ days.

c) Victim Support and Care:

- Four shelter homes run by ACD, BNWLA, DAM and TMSS have been providing services to the victims of trafficking.

d) Media Campaign:

- Several meetings with the communication agency were organized to share with them the ideas for developing new TV spots, radio programmes and radio dramas. IOM commissioned a communication agency Expressions Limited and they arranged telecasting and broadcasting in the TV and radio. It was also decided that a TV documentary will be developed in the third year of the project which will also focus the lessons of the last two years.

e) Drama Campaign:

- Organized 129 drama campaigns in eighteen districts. Two groups from RUPANTAR⁴ went to these districts and performed drama campaign with the help of local IOM partner NGOs. District administration and local govt. helped a lot in organizing these drama campaigns in the community where a large number of people observed the shows. The community people appreciated the programme as well as the performance and also requested to organize more drama campaigns to aware more people.

f) Community Campaign:

Field Level Activities by Partner NGOs:

- Carried out 434 meetings with Locally Elected Bodies (LEBs) at the different Union Parishads of 18 districts with the Chairmen and Members to inform them about the issue and to get their cooperation to implement different field activities.
- Carried out 218 meetings with Bazar Committee members to inform them about the issue and the vital role they can play to prevent human trafficking as the Bazar is the place from where recruiters collect their prey.

⁴ A partner NGO of IOM under the CTI project

- Carried out 218 meetings with Local Leaders to alert them to the issue and to involve them in preventing human trafficking.
- Carried out 216 meetings with the members of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to discuss the issue of human trafficking and to request them to take this issue forward.
- Carried out 216 meetings with school students to make them aware about the different aspects of human trafficking.
- Carried out 217 meetings with the parents of the students to alert them to the issue of human trafficking and also to discuss their roles and responsibilities to protect their children.
- Carried out 217 meetings with school teachers to discuss the issue of human trafficking and their vital role to protect the children from being trafficked.
- BNWLA organized 32 awareness raising programme at the community level in 17 districts for sustainable reintegration of survivors.

g) Evaluation:

- A mid-term evaluation of project was conducted by an Independent Consultant (full report is attached in annex).

3. CONSTRAINTS AND ACTION TAKEN:

During the first four months of this year the project had to postpone several activities due to the transfer of District Administration officials and prevailing emergency situation, especially in the field. Most of the District Commissioners and the Superintendent of police were transferred. Furthermore, meetings were banned and special permission had to be obtained from Ministry of Home affairs for IOMs Drama campaign which delayed the start of the campaign for 2 months.

4. SYNERGIES WITH OTHER USAID SUPPORTED PROJECTS:

Under this project IOM works with other USAID/Bangladesh's funded project to bring synergies with other projects.

IOM works with USAID's partner RUPANTAR which has the local expertise on Pot⁵ song and drama. This expertise is being used in this project to bring awareness to community people on the issue of human trafficking. IOM also works with another USAID funded project SUCCEED implemented by Save the Children USA. Through this project counter-trafficking messages are disseminated to school students, mothers groups, children groups, teachers and children learning centers. IOM trained all the relevant IOM and Save the Children USA staff on the issues of trafficking in persons. Both SUCCEED and IOM have been closely working in the advocacy and communication aspects of trafficking in persons and jointly developed stories and materials on counter-trafficking. SUCCEED developed a session plan for integrating the issue in their parenting programme. So far, around 90 staff, 360 teachers, 7,000 parents and 7,500 children has been part of the awareness campaign. IOM and SUCCEED jointly monitored school campaign activities in the Jessore area. Regarding health care and support for victims of trafficking, IOM and USAID partner NSDP worked

⁵ Local folk song

together to support the victims of trafficking with health benefit cards and other medical facilities.

NSDP partner NGOs and IOM – CTI project partner NGOs signed a Letter of Understanding (LOU) on 30 September 2007 which has been effective from the date of signing. NSDP has thirty NGO partners and IOM – CTI project has seven NGO partners. Under this LOU, NSDP partners will provide health care services, including general health check-ups, immunization, treatment of sexually transmitted infection (STIs) and minor sickness, and reproductive health and family planning to the victims of trafficking referred by the USAID sponsored anti trafficking entities. Trafficking victims would also be provided green color health benefit cards for free to get services including medicines, and lab tests available in the clinics. It would help to get the medical facilities through their satellite clinic called “Surjer Hashi⁶” within shortest possible time.

5. CONCLUSIONS:

During the last year most of the activities have been undertaken as per work plan. The next steps of the project will be:

- To conduct a series of training courses for the Bar Association members, Public Prosecutors and Lawyers;
- To provide support to the victims of trafficking;
- To organize a roundtable discussion with Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- To organize a training for the Foreign Service Academy Officials (FSA);
- To arrange an orientation training for the land port immigration officials and inspector level officials;
- To build awareness among the potential migrants about labour trafficking, review the existing legislations and to adopt a concrete action plan for necessary interventions.;
- To conduct series of advocacy meetings;
- To develop a TV documentary and radio drama; and
- To work with Grameenphone⁷ to provide support to the victims of trafficking.

The PIC and monitoring meetings, the school, community, drama, and media campaigns will be continued as usual as well as all other scheduled activities. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) appreciates the support of USAID/Bangladesh in working for the people of Bangladesh who are at risk of trafficking and also appreciates all the organizations who agreed to extend their cooperation to achieve IOM's goal.

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(Will be submitted by the finance section separately).

⁶ Smiling Sun

⁷ One of the largest telecommunication company working in the social development field